

REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim for foreign priority, and for acknowledging receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating that the filed drawings are accepted, and for considering all the documents submitted in the various Information Disclosure Statements.

By the current response, Applicant cancels, without prejudice, claims 1-8, 15 and 21-23. Thus, claims 9-14, 16-20, 24 and 25 remain pending, all the pending claims being revised to clarify the claimed invention.

In the Office Action, claims 10-12 and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention. By the current response, Applicant amends claims 10-12 and 17-20, paying particular attention to the concerns raised by the Examiner in the Office Action. In view of the current amendments to these claims, Applicant submits that the grounds for the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection no longer exists, and respectfully requests that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,530,021 to EPSTEIN et al. As noted above, claims 1 and 21 have been canceled, and thus, Applicant submits that this rejection is moot, and should be withdrawn. Applicant submits that the cancellation of these claims is for the purpose of advancing the prosecution of the application to issue, and should not be taken as acquiescing to the appropriateness of the rejection. Thus, no estoppel should attach thereto.

Claims 7-13, 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by International Publication WO 92/22983 to BROWNE et al. As noted above, claims 7, 8 and 23 have been canceled. Thus, this rejection will be discussed with respect to pending claims 9-13 and 24.

According to an embodiment of a television broadcasting receiving device defined by independent claim 9, appliances set by users are provided with data related to data broadcasting updated by reproduction. Each appliance constantly holds the data related to the updated data broadcasting. In particular, the embodiment defined by independent claim 9 includes a controller that transmits a request to reproduce the data related to the data broadcasting to the appliance set using a setter in response to an instruction to reproduce the data broadcasting by the an instructor, receives the data related to the data broadcasting, causes a storage to store the received data related to the data broadcasting and causes a reproducer to start a reproduction of the data broadcasting, and transmit the data related to the data broadcasting that is updated in the storage to the set appliance when the reproduction of the data broadcasting by the reproducer is over. This results in the user being able to reproduce data broadcasting using the data related to the data broadcasting updated by a previous reproduction in each appliance. The embodiment defined by independent claim 24 is similar to that defined by independent claim 9. Applicant submits that at least these features are lacking from BROWNE et al., and thus, submits that independent claims 9 and 24, along with dependent claims 10-13, are not anticipated by BROWNE et al., and thus, are allowable over the applied art. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to indicate the allowability of claims 9-13 and 24 in the next official communication.

Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over EPSTEIN et al. and further in view of International Publication WO 02/073959 to HIRAI et al. As

discussed above, claims 2 and 3 have been canceled. Thus, Applicant submits that this rejection is moot, and respectfully requests that it be withdrawn.

Similarly, claims 4-6 and 22, which stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over EPSTEIN et al. and U.S. Patent 7,227,583 to SIN, have been canceled. Thus, Applicant also respectfully requests that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

Independent claims 14 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over BROWNE et al. in view of European Patent Application EP 0584991 to NITTA et al.

According to an embodiment of the present invention defined by independent claim 14, users can be assigned, respectively, to one or a plurality of storage areas in a storage, and to one or a plurality of storage areas in each of one or a plurality of appliances via an operator, and information of the user assigned to each storage area is presented to the user. In particular, the television broadcasting receiving device defined in independent claim 14 includes a storage that has at least one storage area and stores data generated and updated when the data broadcasting is reproduced. An operator assigns at least one user to a respective at least one storage area in the storage and to at least one storage area in each of the at least one appliance. An instructor gives an instruction to reproduce the data broadcasting by the reproducer, and a presenter presents to a user information of the at least one user assigned to the at least one storage area in the storage and of the at least one user assigned to the at least one storage area in each of the at least one appliance in response to the instruction to reproduce the data broadcasting by the instructor. Independent claim 25 is similar.

Applicant submits that these combination of features are neither disclosed or suggested by BROWNE et al. or NITTA et al., either individually or in the combination set forth in the

Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this ground of rejection be withdrawn, and claims 14 and 25 be indicated to be allowable over the art of record.

Claims 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over BROWNE et al. in view of NITTA et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0154485 to JOHNSON et al.

Initially, Applicant notes that claim 15 has been canceled. Further, pending claims 16-20 depend from independent claim 14. Applicant submits that claims 16-20 are allowable for the same reasons applicable to independent claim 14, discussed above, and further, for the combination of features recited in each dependent claim. In this regard, Applicant submits that JOHNSON et al. fails to disclose that which is lacking in the combination of BROWNE et al. and NITTA et al. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate the allowability of dependent claims 16-20 in the next official communication.

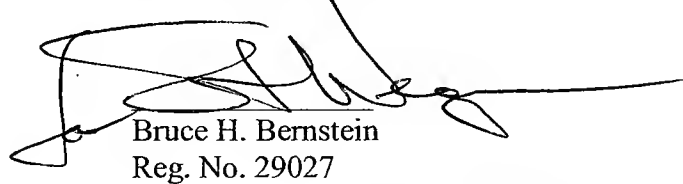
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as now defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,
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